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Pelham NEWS

Published by Postmedia

Colourful Christmas



WAYNE CAMPBELL/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Members of the Trebiaires Ladies Show Choir warm up at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Fonthill. The choir, dressed as characters from Christmas movies and TV shows, present its seasonal program called Stay Toon'd in Niagara Falls Nov. 27, Pelham Dec. 4 and Stevensville Dec. 7. See story on Page 10.



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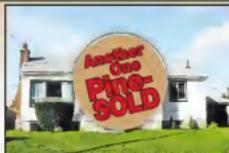
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Library wants to boost Fenwick, Fonthill services

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Special to Postmedia Network

Pelham Public Library Board was to give members of Fenwick and Fonthill to Fenwick.

In its appeal to town council's budget committee last Monday, library board chair Tim Wright asked for help to reach both goals.

In Fenwick, the town will soon complete a \$1-million addition to the Maple Acre library branch, which is expected to open in January.

Wright said the library wants to increase hours to 28 from 14 a week.

"We're hoping to develop a first-class service."

It would ensure Fenwick residents get service as good as they would if they came to Fonthill, he said.

A phone system connecting the two branches is part of it.

Cost of Maple Acre's improved service would be \$23,700, mostly for staffing.

For Fonthill, the library board wants to renovate its 30-year-old building to increase public areas.

The \$215,000 project would include installing an elevator, moving staff offices into the basement and converting main floor offices

and break room into public areas.

The board is asking the town for up to \$170,000 for the Fonthill renovations. Donations from Pelham Art Festival and other fundraising will go toward the cost of the work.

The library board has applied for a Canada 150 grant. If it receives one, it would lower its request from the town, said Wright.

Library chief executive officer Kirk Weaver said the renovations, based on a consultant's report, would extend the functional use of the Fonthill building eight to 10 years.

The library expects to see a steady increase in demand in Fonthill as new housing developments are completed in east Fonthill, said Weaver.

For 2017, the library budgets for a 4.75 per cent increase in expenditures to \$927,036.

For revenue, it would receive \$763,265 from the town; \$23,388 from a provincial operating grant; \$34,100 from fines, fees and rentals; \$21,000 from fundraising charges; and \$47,709 from development charges.

Town council will consider the library's request during its budget meetings, which run through December.

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Let's embrace publicly electing the regional chair



DAVE
AUGUSTYN

Last week, the province introduced legislation that included mandating the election of all Ontario's regional chairs by the public-at-large, starting in 2018.

While this push toward a more accountable and democratic election alarmed a few folks in Niagara (including our current chair), those watching the municipal sector weren't surprised.

First, during the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in August, the Hon. Bill Mauro, minister of

municipal affairs, called for changes to increase the "accountability and transparency" of regional councils.

Second, Niagara stood as the only hold-out region that still wanted to appoint the chair from among members of council. All other areas either already elect their chair of regional council at large, or were working toward doing so.

Waterloo Region began electing their chair 19 years ago. Halton Region has elected a regional chair since 2000. Durham Region first elected their regional chair in 2014.

A bill to elect the York Regional chair at large was recently before the Ontario Legislature. And, in 2013, Peel Regional council directed staff to report after the 2014 election on options to directly elect their chair for the 2018 municipal election.

Finally, with the next municipal

election two years away, the province needed to announce changes now to give various municipalities time to appropriately adapt.

Surprisingly, some suggested that it would be too difficult for regional chair candidates to campaign across the equivalent of four federal ridings that cover our peninsula. Interestingly, Niagara would actually be the smallest area: 4 1/2 ridings cover Waterloo Region; five ridings cover Waterloo; and 5 1/2 ridings cover Durham.

Similarly, some suggest that the cost to mount a campaign would keep good candidates out of the race. While the spending limits in Halton, Waterloo and Durham are higher than it will be for Niagara (estimated to be \$306,000), the most any candidate spent in these campaigns were nowhere near the limits. Winning candidates spent

\$16,000 in Halton; \$56,000 in Waterloo; and \$74,000 in Durham.

With this latest improvement, candidates for the chair's position will have to put together a vision that would appeal to all of Niagara. This would be similar to the visions that mayoral candidates present to the public, but it would be for all in the peninsula.

I believe that this change would will help us to work together to become more open, transparent, accountable, and democratic in Niagara.

Let us embrace this improvement, because publicly electing the regional chair will help pull the views and hopes of our region's citizen's together and can become an important and unifying force for moving Niagara forward.

You may read Mayor Dave's past columns at www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.ca.

St. Catharines bakery provides plenty of edible options



TIFFANY
MAYER

PART 10 IN A SERIES
ABOUT EATERIES
TUCKED AWAY IN THE
REGION'S STRIP MALLS

Jennifer Kuzyk's eyes glistened as she put the final flourishes on a chocolate cake.

It was messy in its decadence—a beautiful mess of Toblerone, Turtles, popcorn, Kisses, 24-carat gold leaf and a Curly Wurly that took it from mere baked good to art.

But that's not what made the owner of Edible Options emotional.

It was the trio of women at a nearby table in Kuzyk's St. Catharines bakery that overwhelmed her. They were gabbing over coffee, sharing stories and treats in the shop that Kuzyk built.

"I pinch myself when I think about what's happening behind me. People are in my space, enjoying my baking. It's like a dream," Kuzyk said as she looked skyward in an effort to dam the tears. "They chose

to come here instead of Starbucks. That's pretty cool."

As a writer, I get it—the soul-baring and soul-bearing work of creating something for others to enjoy. And when they do enjoy it, it's a relief that tricks you into wanting to do it again.

Still, Kuzyk's unfiltered emotion caught me off guard. If anyone could convince people to buck mass-produced treats from one of the world's most popular coffee chains, it's Kuzyk.

The woman is formidable, not just for her cake decorating prowess but because of her tenacity in building a successful certified gluten-free bakery that, unless you asked, you'd never know eschewed that most reviled wheat protein.

She tested and tweaked her recipe for gluten-free bread 382 times before she sank her teeth into what she deemed the perfect loaf. It's one that closely resembles all those gluten-filled versions.

It's moist and cohesive, unlike the scads of commercial loaves that have to stay frozen so they don't crumble into Sahara-dry bits that flavour forgot.

"I told myself I wouldn't open until I had awesome bread," Kuzyk said.

Story continued on Page 5



JENNIFER KUZYK/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Art of baking begins with dedication from the heart

FROM PAGE 4

But her story begins long before that; long before opening her bakery last June was even a possibility.

I first encountered Kuzyk's baking magic two years ago when I saw her macarons advertised on the Niagara Local Food Co-op website. My sweet tooth won over my voice of reason and I found myself ordering a batch of the delicate meringue sandwiches.

They were beasts. They didn't just boast the beautiful bubbly feet that every macaron baker squals over. These things had legs. They were sublime. Their lightness was deceptive, lulling me into thinking they would barely register on my waistline if I ate two or three in one sitting.

At the time, Kuzyk told me in an interview that baking was a sideline project she started to help a friend with celiac disease.

"I loved the challenge of turning something gluten-free," Kuzyk said. "I'd make recipes from a book or website and they'd never look as good as the photo or comments under the recipe."

Soon, though, she was making gluten-free pizza crusts for a downtown pizzeria. Her macarons and cookies were appearing in local bakeshops.

Kuzyk would return home at the end of clocking a full day as a plant inspector with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

tion Agency, spend some time with her young son, then fill orders in a commercial kitchen for five hours every night.

After four hours sleep, she'd wake and do it all over again. One day on the commute to her day job with its relative security and great benefits, her husband Kyle told her to "go big or go home."

"When are you going to get the chance to do this again?" Kuzyk recalled him asking.

So she took a leave of absence from the CFIA and took a chance this spring on a space in a new Fourth Avenue strip mall.

A sign that reads "Actually, I can read" hangs in the open kitchen where her staff turn out 400 loaves of gluten-free bread a week to the soundtrack of whirring stand-mixers. The sign was a gift from family to keep Kuzyk on track during those moments of self-doubt and anxiety that every entrepreneur has when they take the leap.

I can't think of three words better suited to Kuzyk as I scan the offerings of cupcakes, cookies, those macarons and date squares that rival her bread in popularity. Most days they sell out. Leftovers go home with staff and never see a second day on the shelf.

There are two words you will never see, however: Gluten-free.

Most of the items on offer don't contain many com-

mon food allergens, including refined sugar, corn and legumes. Kuzyk will happily share her ingredient list with any customer who asks.

She even has a dedicated vegan oven for the plant-based dieters. Her connection at the CFIA tipped her off about how to keep the nut-free bread safe by avoiding cross-contamination.

It all makes her bakery

inclusive of a wide range of dietary needs but Kuzyk knows how off-putting that can be for some.

"You will not see gluten-free. We'd tell people we're gluten-free and they'd say 'I eat gluten' and walk out the door. The history of gluten-free food, people think it's crumbly and dry."

But it's people like the trio of women at the table nearby who are there because they can safely enjoy lunch

or a treat — or because they don't care, Kuzyk's baking is that good — that leave her feeling grateful.

Ditto for the indebted mother who can finally give her child the birthday cake of his dreams, or the person with a gluten allergy who avoided bread for 40 years until now.

"People come in and say, 'I hear you have something gluten-free,'" Kuzyk says. "We tell them everything

is and their heads spin."

— Strip Mall Gems is a monthly feature of Eating Niagara that focuses on the standout eateries sandwiched between the convenience stores, laundromats and shops in our plazas throughout the region. Got a favourite hole in the wall I should know about? E-mail eating-niagara@gmail.com or tweet @eatingniagara.

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Friday Nov 25 8:00-8:30pm	Thursday, Nov 24	Monday Nov 28	Friday, Nov 25 10:00-11:00am	Friday, Nov 25 9:00-10:00am	Thurs, Nov 24 10:30-11:30am	Thurs, Nov 24 9:30-10:30am	Thurs, Nov 24 2:00-3:00pm	*No Game this Week*
Sunday, Nov 27 1:00-2:00pm	1:00-2:00pm	1:00-2:00pm	Tues, Nov 29	Tuesday, Nov 29 8:00-9:00am	Mon, Nov 29 9:30-10:30am		Monday Nov 28 11:00-12:00pm	Next Game: Tuesday Dec 6 7:00-9:30pm
Tues, Nov 29 7:30-8:30pm								

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Friday, December 2, 2016

4:00pm - 10:00pm

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10am - 11am

Join the Pelham Seniors' Advisory Committee for the Seniors' Safety Seminar at Niagara Safety Village on Wed., November 30th from 10:00am until 1:00pm.

For more details, contact 905-892-2607 ext. 320 or visit pelham.ca/psac.



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WAYNE CAMPBELL
Special to Postmedia Network

Pelham town council will take a hard look at contracting out services such as snow removal.

During a special budget meeting last Monday, councillors considered a staff report on sidewalk clearing. It said snow removal from sidewalks would take three to four days after a snow event. Staff must clear roads first.

Councillors want useable sidewalks within 24 hours.

Mayor Steve Auguayn said that was the intention when the town took over sidewalk chores throughout the town.

"We are trying to promote a walkable community" and safety was a factor, he said.

Previously, the town insisted property owners clear walks in front of their houses and shops with 24 hours or face fines.

It did not work because of older homeowners unable to shovel and residents who were not interested in shoveling.

The town extended its downtown sidewalk clearing operation to the whole town acquiring equipment to do the job and hiring on-call part-time staff.

Ward 2 Coun. Gary Accursi favoured contracting out both sidewalk and road-

way clearing.

For the roads staff, in second report, suggested that the town could hire out a snow route because of deterioration a truck used for snow removal.

Accursi said the provincial Ministry of Transport contracted out road snowplowing under then-Conservative premier Mike Harris' "x" and saved thousands and thousands of dollars by leaving equipment, maintenance and liability in the hands of contractors.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durley, who spent the Harris years driving across Ontario on hockey matters, said provincial contracting out led to a deterioration of snow clearing standards. Meanwhile, hundreds of workers lost jobs.

He insisted any contracting out would "have to make sure the job is done right and we don't lose any employees."

Councillors last Monday did not make a decision for the 2017 budget.



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LOCAL NEWS

Stay Toon'd to Christmas melodies with The Treblaires

WAYNE CAMPBELL

Special to Postmedia Network

This holiday season, the Treblaires Ladies Show Choir bring to life Charlie Brown's feebble tree, the Grinch, Frosty, Rudolph and other characters from popular Christmas movies and television shows.

Unlike more formal choirs in the community, this show choir's concerts become a mix of singing, dancing and acting with memorized songs.

Together the singers have selected the songs for their upcoming show.

"It's definitely a group effort," said music director Jessie Cowan, also noting the selection of costumes and lyrics for the show called Stay Toon'd.

"Record every vocal part so people can practise at home," said Cowan. "It is a big commitment for members."

Said choir president Rhonda Baker, "We are serious about our music and seri-

ous about having fun."

In three public concerts over the next couple weeks, choir members will dress in costumes, some homemade, from Christmas movies and TV pro-

grams for the show.

They will sing and dance:

- In Niagara Falls at Stamford Lane United Church on Sunday, Nov. 27, at 3 p.m.;
- In Pelham at Fonthill's Holy Trinity Anglican Church on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 3 p.m.;
- and at Fort Erie Pub-

lic Library in Stevensville on Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m.

Tickets for Stay Toon'd are \$10 each.

The Treblaires also entertain senior centres, homes, hospitals and other centres.

"We are community based," said Baker explaining how the group has thrived since its establishment in 1956.

The Treblaires draws members from families and friends, as well as by word of mouth and a bit of advertising. It holds practices Tues-

days 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at either Holy Trinity Anglican in Fonthill or Stamford Lane United Church.

The choir alternates locations each season to accommodate its members from across Niagara.

To join, there is no formal audition, just a willingness to sing and improve, said Cowan.

Baker said the choir is regularly asked to assist at fundraising events for food banks and other charities. One concert helped

an Anglican diocese in the Arctic to rebuild a cathedral destroyed by fire.

From its paid gigs, the Treblaires set aside \$500 to \$1,000 annually to help for a Niagara student entering a fine arts program. Students from any local school, college or university are eligible to apply, said Cowan.

For more information see the Treblaires Facebook page or contact Rhonda Baker at 905-892-0337.

No TV deal for New Year's Eve show

JONAH LAW

Postmedia Network

Niagara Falls will again have a free New Year's Eve concert at Queen Victoria Park.

The bad news? Just like last year, you won't be watching it on TV.

Mayor Jim Diodati confirmed last Tuesday that efforts to bring the show back to television this year were unsuccessful. He says a changing media landscape and reluctance by the tourism industry to invest more money has been a factor without a broadcaster for the second consecutive year.

He says an additional \$1 million to \$2 million would be required from the tourism industry for a TV deal. But because hotels are already "packed" on New Year's Eve, it was a tough sell.

"The tourism industry already does contribute to the show, and I get their dilemma," says Diodati. "They're saying, 'Let's invest, but let's invest in a concert where we're not already full.'"

"Bringing more people (on New Year's Eve) ... the cup's full, it's just going to overflow with it."

Last year Tom Cochrane, Dennis DeYoung and Alan Doyle played a downsized the show to about 35,000 people in the park, minus TV cameras. It was the first time, in 25 years the concert wasn't

broadcast across the province or country.

Diodati says a similar show is in store this year, with the lineup nearly finalized.

"We've got some good established talent and good emerging talent," he says. "What we have right now, it's going to appeal to a broader range of people."

Even without a TV deal, the show is still one of the most unique ways to spend New Year's Eve in Canada, says Niagara Parks Commission chairwoman Jenice Thompson.

"One of the mandates of it is to provide free entertainment on New Year's Eve for a large group of people," she says. "It provides a sense of community and a great sense of celebration."

But she says the national TV exposure was "important" and alternatives are being looked at for next year.

"We need to find a way to make that broadcast out, whether it's a TV broadcast, or a broadcast or something using a different creative idea."

But she says the national TV exposure was "important" and alternatives are being looked at for next year.

"It would make no sense to



Demi Lovato performs at the 2013 New Year's Eve show in Niagara Falls, broadcast across Canada on Global. For the second straight year, this year's free concert at Queen Victoria Park won't be shown on TV.

let an event with such widespread appeal as simply fade out," he adds later.

But when a TV deal still wasn't announced by summer, Diodati said the same problems were to blame: Nielsen the networks nor tourism industry wanted to foot the show's \$3-million to \$4-million price tag.

That was the figure attached to the 2014 concert, headlined

by Keith Urban, which had about 4.2 million viewers tune in at midnight. Despite the huge ratings, Global backed out the following year. Global senior vice-president Christine Shipton said the "economic model did not allow us to move forward with the event this year."

With TV no longer an option, Diodati says a "completely new model" is being

considered for 2017: Live-streaming across the Internet.

"We're looking at a social-media approach to New Year's Eve," he says. "It takes a lot more planning, because all of a sudden it becomes an international item."

"We know there's a model, so we're creating that and seeking out partners. We're starting way in advance. Although this year's show

is great, we definitely miss the cache of having Niagara Falls featured on the national broadcast."

He doesn't regret jumping the gun to say the show would be back on TV this year.

"We were shooting high," he says. "I'd rather shoot high and miss than aim low and hit it."

jlaw@postmedia.com

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Conradi leaving Niagara newspapers



JULIE JOCUM/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Peter Conradi, current editor-in-chief of the St. Catharines Standard, will be departing for the east coast of the country where he will take over the managing editor position of the Fredericton Daily Gleaner.

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

Peter Conradi, editor-in-chief for Postmedia in Niagara, is leaving the Niagara news business to take on a new role as managing editor at a newspaper in New Brunswick.

"I've been in Niagara pretty well all of my professional life," said the 57-year-old St. Catharines native.

"It was a very complicated and personal decision, but it

was the right thing to do at this time."

For more than three decades, Conradi has played a prominent role with Niagara papers.

In recent years, under his leadership, *The Standard*, *Niagara Falls Review* and *Welland Tribune* have developed a strong presence on social media and have transitioned to offer streaming live video at meetings and events, as well as podcasts.

"I like the way we've always been able to innovate and try new things," Conradi said.

But the news media business is changing, and it's always changing. You have to always be looking for ways to grow and I like to think that I played a part in making sure of that."

Conradi has held a number of roles at *The Standard*, including sports reporter, sports editor and columnist, news editor and city editor.

"Peter pushed me to become

a better writer which served me well when I replaced him as sports editor in 2009," said Gord Howard, regional sports editor for Postmedia in Niagara, who has worked with Conradi since 1997.

"He is a first-rate newspaper man and his presence will be missed at *The Standard* and all three daily Postmedia properties in Niagara."

Conradi spent four years as managing editor of the *Niagara Falls Review* and four years as managing editor at the *Welland Tribune*.

"When Peter came to the *Review* about 10 years ago, he picked up what was a tired newsroom and revitalized it," said Gord Howard, senior news editor for Postmedia in Niagara.

"He pushed reporters to do longer, more in-depth stories and that brought new energy to the paper and to the newsroom."

Howard, who worked with Conradi at both the *Review* and *The Standard*, described Conradi as "tenacious."

"Any politician who thinks he can duck a story by avoiding a reporter quickly learns that isn't the way Peter operates. He doesn't let go."

Mark Schramm, regional director of media sales for Postmedia in Niagara, agreed.

"Peter has been an incredible leader during these transitional times in this business," he said. "His passion is unmatched and he will be missed dearly."

Gerry Nott, senior vice-president of content with Postmedia, said Conradi has "shaped the journalism landscape in Niagara and impacted the community significantly."

"There cannot have been a story large or small that hasn't been written, assigned or edited by him over 30 years," he said. "At this later stage of his career, for him to accept a new challenge in a different province speaks to his passion for the industry."

Conradi also spent three years as publisher at *Bullet News Niagara* and was a journalism instructor at Niagara College.

He will take the helm at *The Daily Gleaner* in New Brunswick Dec. 12.

The newspaper is a member of Brunswick News, which has about 30 publications across the province.

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Dr. Andrew Taylor passes 100,000 mark in procedures

Lasik ProVision is the Niagara Peninsula's only comprehensive refractive centre which deals with the treatment of common visual disorders. The centre was founded in its current location in 1999 and has evolved to a state of the art refractive centre with a global reputation for the laser correction



Dr. Andrew Taylor

of nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism. It is a world leader in bringing the treatment of Zeiss Laser Blended Vision Vision for the treatment of presbyopia "reading glasses vision" to North America. In addition, the centre specializes in the treatment of cataracts and corneal disorders such as keratoconus.

Founder and medical director, Dr. Andrew W. Taylor, is one of North America's leading ophthalmologists in the use of excimer lasers in refractive surgery. He obtained his medical degree from the University of Toronto in 1991 and went on to complete a specialty residency in ophthalmology, also at the University of Toronto. He then went on to complete subspecialty training

in corneal and refractive disorders. He has completed over 100,000 refractive procedures including lasik, photorefractive keratectomy and cataract surgery to date. In addition to his directorship role at Lasik ProVision, Dr. Taylor is an active staff member of The Niagara Health System in the Department of Ophthalmology.

Lasik ProVision has evolved in its current location from its original incarnation as Lasik Vision, which brought affordable lasik eye surgery to North America. Dr. Taylor restructured Lasik Vision in 2001 as a founding principal and owner of Lasik MD, which then went on to expand refractive clinics across Canada. In 2005, Dr. Taylor left Lasik MD to focus on more customized patient eyecare. In addition to his base clinic in Niagara Falls, he underwent an international expansion to London, England, Brussels, Belgium and the United States. Currently, in addition to his work in Niagara Falls, Dr. Taylor is involved in the development of a comprehensive ophthalmic centre in Toronto.

"What is exciting now in refractive laser eye surgery is the safety of the procedure and the range of treatment options now available for patients. It is rare that a patient cannot benefit from refractive surgery" says Dr. Taylor. "The greatest development in recent years has been the use of the femtosecond laser for the creation of the flap upon which the lasik procedure is based. Not only does this create a thinner and more uniform flap which leads to better optical outcomes, it alleviates the need for a blade and cutting microkeratome which was for many patients the biggest hurdle preventing them from having refractive lasik surgery. The safety factor is so great, I no longer utilize the microkeratome blade in lasik eye surgery".

Dr. Taylor has extensive experience on several laser platforms. "While we started with the Bausch and Lomb platform in 1999, the industry has moved forward to provide greater customization for the unique optical errors of each individual patient. At Lasik ProVision, we currently and exclusively use the Carl Zeiss Meditec MEL 80 platform with the Visumax femtosecond laser. "This platform in my belief delivers the optimal reshaping of the cornea to maintain the natural corneal shape for optimal optical correction and customization. Zeiss laser Blended Vision is unique in the treatment of presbyopia or "reading glasses vision". It is the only excimer laser platform that predictably increases the range of vision so patients can see at near, intermediate and far without the loss of stereovision. This is truly exciting. Previously, and on other laser platforms, we could only treat with monovision with one eye corrected for far and one eye corrected for distance. This left patients with a loss of intermediate vision and reduced stereovision. It worked, but Zeiss Laser Blended Vision works so much better."

What is the future of refractive surgery? "The future is continuing to refine the refractive outcome with ever safer and less invasive procedures. I am very excited that within the next year, we will begin to fully utilize the femtosecond laser's potential, going beyond the creation of better flaps to conducting the entire laser procedure within the cornea without a flap. This may sound like science fiction, but it is a reality and I am honoured that Zeiss has chosen to partner with Lasik ProVision in Niagara Falls to bring this technology to North America. To obtain additional information or to book your FREE consultation please contact our refractive counselors at 1-888-510-2020 or 905-371-3217 You may visit our website at www.lasikprovision.com

Region wants south to fund airport EA

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Special to Postmedia Network

Pelham town councillors were asked why their airport must pay for an environmental assessment before takeover talks with Niagara Region.

Want 2 Coun. Gary Accursi, during a special town budget meeting last Monday, said normally one makes a deal first then finance work required to complete it.

Niagara Central Airport Commission in a letter to town council said the airport will need up to \$65,000 for first and second phases of an environmental assessment.

The Region asked for the study in advance of takeover discussions for Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeing Airport in Pelham and Niagara District Airport in Niagara-



GREG FURNINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeing Airport.

on-the-Lake.

The Pelham-based airport is run by the commission made up of municipal councillors from Pelham, Port Colborne, Welland and Wainfleet. The municipalities jointly operate and finance the airport.

The commission is requesting \$163,700 from its four municipalities for 2017. Pelham's share would be \$29,466.

In addition to the assessment, the airport is planning for \$50,000 in capital

improvements, said Ward 1 Coun. Richard Rybiak, commission chair and Pelham's representative.

Niagara District has a similar arrangement with St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Rybiak said the operation of both airports by Niagara Region makes economic sense. It would give the Region a well-rounded air service.

Commercial flights would fly out of Niagara District

while Dorothy Rungeing airport would handle fly-in clubs, flight training, air cadets, aircraft maintenance and currently a sky diving school.

"It is already working out that way," Rybiak said.

A regional-run operation would increase the number of municipalities contributing.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said the environmental assessment came out a "boogeyman" issue that crept up during an airport debate at regional council.

A 1985 study of Niagara District Airport showed there was a landfall site there but no one knows what happened to it. Since an assessment was needed for the Niagara-on-the-Lake airport, the same request was made of Niagara Central, the mayor said.



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NIAGARA 2041

Fostering an Environment for Economic Prosperity



Get Involved in Niagara's Future: Attend Public Information Centre #3

In the next 25 years, Niagara is expected to grow, bringing a possible 168,000 new residents and 79,000 new jobs to the region.

Niagara Region is making sure we're prepared for this growth through four projects that will help us plan where and how that growth will occur, and how it will be accommodated.



HOW WE GROW: MUNICIPAL COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

The Municipal Comprehensive Review will look at the land we have available across Niagara, and will ensure we have enough to sustain our expected growth to the year 2041. It will also examine how that land is distributed throughout Niagara.



HOW WE GROW: DEVELOPMENT CHARGES BY-LAW

The new Development Charges Background Study and By-law will align the infrastructure for our expected growth and how we will pay for it. It will connect with and reflect how we plan to grow, flow and go.



HOW WE FLOW:

The Water and Wastewater Master Servicing Plan will ensure Niagara has the infrastructure to provide critical water and wastewater services to our growing region in a sustainable and financially responsible way. This PIC will be presenting alternative design concepts.



HOW WE GO:

The Transportation Master Plan will look at how we currently travel in and around Niagara and how we can improve our transportation systems, including options for walking, cycling and public transit, to better serve Niagara's future needs.

Get involved:

Residents are invited to attend a Public Information Centre in their community to learn how each of these projects contribute to Niagara's overall growth plan for the next 25 years, and how you can have your voice heard.

Nov. 30, 2016

City of Niagara Falls
Gale Centre, 5152 Thorold Stone Rd.,
4-8 p.m.

Dec. 6, 2016

City of Thorold
Niagara Region Headquarters
(Atrium), 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
4-8 p.m.

Dec. 7, 2016

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
Community Centre, 14 Anderson Lane,
4-8 p.m.

Dec. 8, 2016

Town of Lincoln
Fleming Centre, 5020 Serena Dr.,
4-8 p.m.

There is an opportunity at any time during this process for interested persons to bring comments and concerns to the attention of the project managers, and to review outstanding issues. If you have any questions or comments or wish to be added to the study mailing list, please contact us at niagararegion.ca/2041.

The Transportation and Water and Wastewater studies follow the Master Plan process as outlined in Section A.2.7 of the Municipal Engineers Association (MEA) Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (Oct 2009, as amended in 2000, 2011 and 2015). The Master Plan will be used under Approach #2 of the MEA Class EA Approach for Master Planning. The Master Servicing Plan will satisfy the planning requirements for Schedule A, A+ and select Schedule B projects and provide the basis for future investigations of identified Schedule B and C projects.

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to access the project documents, contact the Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 or 1-800-263-7215 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca to make the appropriate arrangements.

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 - GMC Terrain
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 - Chevy Impala

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- Chevy Trax
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 - Buick Enclave

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Major changes prescribed for ambulances

MARYANNE FIRTH
Printmedia Network

ara EMS has undergone a review that has yielded seventy recommendations and necessary to keep its service strong.

The Niagara Emergency Medical Services master plan was recently presented to the public health and social services committee, outlining challenges that exist in the system and offering poten-

"We've done a lot of work ... We spent a number of months looking into everything we can think of in the EMS system," said Jon Hambides of Pormax Consulting Inc., a London-based firm hired by Niagara Region in March to complete the master plan strategy that looks forward to 2027.

Hambides explained to councillors Niagara will be facing "a lot of pressure" in the coming



Nathanael Alaimo, advanced care paramedic and Leila Paugh, primary care paramedic, are photographed by an EMS ambulance.

decade and beyond. There is a need for additional resources in the EMS system, equally funded by the Region and Ministry of Health.

In an effort to "flatten what's going to happen over the next 10 years," Hamblides urged the Region to invest in hiring a team of researchers to study local emergency calls and the path patients take when they move through the system.

More information is needed to find a solution for the continually increasing ambulance call load, which has been outpacing Niagara's population growth annually, climbing by an average of six per cent compared to one per cent growth.

With Niagara's population projected to increase by nearly 41,000 people by 2031, the only options available moving forward are continuing to increase resources substantially in the system or to find an alternative one.

ating method, Hamblides said.

If no changes are made, the Region, depending on the growth model used to forecast future need, will require an additional seven to 18 24-hour ambulances, each at a cost of about \$1 million, to satisfy demand by 2027.

With the volume of calls at times exceeding available resources in some municipalities currently, including St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, there is an immediate need for two additional ambulances, likely 24 hours each and requiring 35,000 staffed hours per year, he said.

The advantage of a regional EMS system is that resources in other municipalities can be reallocated, whether permanently or temporarily, to satisfy the need and help to ease those existing pressures.

Story continues on Page 28

A dramatic, low-key lighting photograph focusing on the front of a BMW car. The headlights are illuminated, casting a bright glow. The BMW kidney grille is prominent in the center, flanked by the headlights. The BMW roundel logo is visible on the grille. The background is dark, making the metallic surfaces of the car stand out.

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100% of the time. Thomas and his co-authors' results are consistent with those of the 2010 American Community Survey, which found that 71.3% of Americans aged 16 and older had at least one college degree.

Winterglow

18th ANNUAL ROTARY HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

Friday, Dec 2 to
Saturday, Dec 3
10 am - 4 pm



Glen Willow, located at 1828 York Road in Queenston, is one of six residential homes on display of the 18th Annual Rotary Holiday House Tour.

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Be sure to partake in a variety of events and fully experience all that Niagara-on-the-Lake has to offer. With an extensive selection of accommodations, fine dining, wineries, galleries, retail boutiques and more, there's something for everyone.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club is pleased to present its 18th Annual Holiday House Tour.

This year's tour will incorporate 15 beautiful locations to visit over two days, of that are six homes in picturesque Niagara-on-the-Lake, tastefully decorated for the holidays by a team of professional designers. In addition to the lovely homes, ticket purchases allow for visitors to take advantage of special offers from wineries and other area establishments. Proceeds from the Holiday House Tour support the Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club's numerous charitable causes.

Please see brochure for tour map and participating sites at: www.niagaronthelakerotary.ca

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**FRIDAY,
DEC 2
OPEN TIL
10PM**



28th ANNUAL CANDLE LIGHT STROLL

Friday, Dec. 2 | QUEEN STREET HERITAGE DISTRICT | STARTING AT 6:30 PM

Niagara-on-the-Lake's Annual Candlelight Stroll takes place on Friday Dec. 2, with caroling from the Court House steps beginning at 6:30 pm.

A favourite tradition for many families, the Candlelight Stroll begins with the Town Crier gathering everyone together in front of the Court House on Queen Street, with carol singing and the candle lighting ceremony. All participants in the stroll have an opportunity to purchase a candle with cup for \$3, or two for \$5.

Also, each candle stall will have a box for non-perishable goods in support of Newark Neighbours. A candle stall and non-perishable drop-off point will also be located at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Centre in the Fort George parking lot.

As is customary at the Stroll, there will be a special performance by Debbie Whitehouse, singing from the Court House steps, later joined by the Salvation Army Band, as part of the opening ceremonies.

Lord Mayor Pat Darte will introduce this year's recipient of the Candlelight Stroll candle sale proceeds.



Friday, December 2

Take a guided stroll through historic old town, accompanied by local choirs and seasonal entertainment. Festivities begin at 6:30 pm on Queen Street in front of the Clock Tower and Courthouse.

Proceeds from this year's candle sales will support a child in need this Christmas season.
\$3 per candle or 2 for \$5.00.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for Newark Neighbours.



26 Queen Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake 905-468-1950 niagaronthelake.com

Following the custom established by Arthur Nieudorp and his wife, Irene, and the Friends of the Stroll, funds raised from the event will be used to brighten the world of a child in need at Christmas time.

The stroll route will be alive with entertainment from various choirs and musical entertainers, including the Salvation Army Band, the Fort George Junior Pipe and Drum Corps, Grace United Church, Sing Niagara, Niagara Christian Assembly, A Capella Niagara, German School Choir, Royal Oak School, Bethany Bell Ringers, Images, Brass Quintet, Royal Elite International Academy, Jubal Cottage School, The Yellow Door Theatre Company, Joyful Noise and Resurrection Lutheran Church. Debbie Whitehouse will lead the carol singing from the Court House steps.

Many volunteers make this event a tremendous success—members of the Chamber of Commerce and the Town staff all work together to produce a perfect evening.

The Chamber of Commerce is delighted to be able to continue this well-loved tradition of sharing in the joys

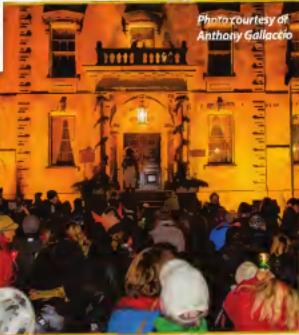


Photo courtesy of Anthony Gallaccio

of the Holiday Season with neighbours and friends and looks forward to welcoming new visitors this year. For more information, call (905) 468-1950 or visit our website, www.niagaronthelake.com.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM PRESENTS

Sleigh Bells in the Snow

Saturday, Dec 3 | 7:30 - 9:30 pm

join the Niagara-on-the-Lake Historical Society & Museum for its annual Christmas event with a 1950s theme! The evening will include music and readings from the era plus 1950s-inspired hors d'oeuvres and wine. Tickets are \$50 per person which includes the performance, food and alcohol. Call 905-468-3912 to reserve your tickets

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HOLIDAY MENUS can be viewed at www.kristinsdinners.com

SHAW FESTIVAL FILM SERIES

Film: Saturdays from Dec 3 - Feb 18
DOCUMENTARY: Fridays from Jan 6 - Feb 17

Begins Dec. 3 at 3 pm for feature films (runs to Feb. 18) and Jan 6 at 6:00 pm for documentaries (runs to Feb 12). All at the Festival Theatre. Advance and same day tickets available at the Shaw Festival Box Office: 905-468-2172 or 1-800-511-7429.

Visit online at www.shawfest.com/event/filmseries

A VERY CHRISTMAS CHORAL CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 10 • 7 pm |

DOCUMENTARY: Fridays from Jan 6 - Feb 17

Music Niagara presents its final Fall for the Classics concert — A Very Choral Christmas. The concert features the much-loved Vocalis Chamber Choir, from Buffalo, New York, under the direction of James Burritt. For tickets, visit musicniagara.org

**TOWN OF NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
SANTA CLAUS PARADE**

Saturday, Dec 10 | 11 AM



What better way to infuse Christmas spirit into the upcoming holiday season than by attending the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake's Annual Santa Claus Parade. Noted as one of Ontario's best Santa Claus Parades, come celebrate and catch a glimpse of the big guy himself, Santa. Starts at 11 am along Queen Street. Call 905-468-4261 for more information.

FORT GEORGE GARRISON CHRISTMAS

Saturday, Dec. 10 & Sunday, Dec 11

NOON-4 PM



Experience Christmas past at Fort George Garrison style just like officers, soldiers and their families did. Savour special dishes in the Officers' kitchen and bask in the glow of the fire against the pomp and pageantry of the fife and drums, create period crafts and play games for all ages. Join the costumed staff and volunteers of Fort George for a day of festive merry-making and revelry you will remember for years to come! For information: 905-468-6614, email ont-niagara@pc.gc.ca or www.pc.gc.ca/fortgeorge

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905-468-4443 • www.theirishharppub.com

The New Year's Levee is a tradition dating back to the beginning of government, where citizens would renew their allegiance to the Crown. In modern times, we commemorate this tradition and invite all residents and visitors to gather on the first day of the New Year. Official toasts, presented at 4:00 pm by local dignitaries, followed by a ceremonial gun salute by Fort George staff and a music presentation by the Fort George Fife and Drum Corps. Complimentary light refreshments available. Call 905-468-6621 or visit www.friendsoffortgeorge.ca

SPARKLE & ICE DIAMOND GALA

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15 • 8 PM



The Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine Festival will engage all of your senses during this celebration of all things icewine. Whether you are a wine enthusiast or a cocktail fan, a foodie or a music lover; there's sure to be an event that speaks to your passion while offering an unforgettable icewine experience. For more event details and tickets, visit www.originalicewinefestival.com

In its fourth year, the Sparkle and Ice Diamond Gala is in celebration of the Original Icewine Festival. Niagara-on-the-Lake Icewine makers and their VQA wines are perfectly paired with Icewine-inspired tastings from the Signature Kitchen Chefs. Also, this year sees the addition of sparkling wines. The beautiful setting in the Grand Hall of the Courthouse and live entertainment will make this an evening to remember. \$95.00 per person. Purchase your tickets at www.originalicewinefestival.com.



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SATURDAY, JAN. 21 & SUNDAY, JAN. 22
SATURDAY, JAN 28 & SUNDAY, JAN. 29



Niagara-on-the-Lake's historic Queen Street transforms into a winter wonderland as the town comes together to play its part in wine country's annual icewine celebration with culinary creations, music, shopping and sparkling ice sculptures. www.niagaraonthelake.com/winter

4th Annual Icebreakers' Comedy Festival

Thursday, Jan. 26 to Saturday, Jan. 28

Held in local venues throughout the town, this comedy festival features quality performers, with a final gala performance on Saturday night. Full listings of performers, locations and times will be posted at www.niagaraonthelake.com. Phone 905-468-1950.

FLASH AND PANACHE: ICEWINE COCKTAIL COMPETITION

SATURDAY, JAN. 21



Queen Street in the Heritage District takes on a whole new energy once the lights are dimmed from 9 to 11 pm. Get out and experience the amazing icewine cocktails created by the Signature Kitchen Chefs of Niagara-on-the-Lake. And it's a Niagara-on-the-Lake competition, so you know the bar will be high. An event not to be missed, music, interesting cocktails and culinary accompaniments from the Signature Kitchen Chefs. www.niagaraonthelake.com/winter

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That time Trump wanted to build a casino in Ontario

MBLING APR 12 1991

Trump promotes joint casino effort



BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) —
Donald Trump will never be accused of hesitating when it comes to making a potential deal, even if it's the first time he's done it.

—

By DAVID ST. CLAIR

Associated Press

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KAREN WALTER
Search Engine

Q: Did Donald Trump ever try to expand his casino empire to this side of the border?

A: Niagara Fallsview Casino could have been called Trump Fallsview if things had gone a little differently.

The then-contestant turned U.S. president-elect finally turned to one of the original consortiums that vied to build and operate a permanent casino in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

It's a little footnote in the history of a casino which transformed an area of the city and generated massive excitement in the years leading up to its opening.

In November 1994, 65 per cent of Niagara Falls residents voted yes to casinos in the community. A year later, the Ontario Casino Corporation announced a commercial casino would be built in Niagara Falls.

An interim casino came first and opened to great fanfare in December 1996. While it was still under construction, the province asked for bids to design, build and operate a permanent casino.

In March 1997, four consortiums bid on the contract — Falls Management Co., led by hotel giant Hyatt Development Corporation of Chicago.

The chair of the section committee said they received four excellent proposals and that each "rose to the top."

The project was given the name Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort in August 2003. Although one of losing consortiums called itself Fallsview, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation said the casino's name was selected from more than 300 suggestions that came from focus groups and brain-storming sessions.

The largest gaming facility in Canada opened in June 2014 with 2.5 million square feet in total. It is, many people are saying, HUGE.

AP
U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

Search Engine continues
on Page 26

THE SEARCH CONTINUES ...

The MTO's new roundabouts on Seventh Street off the QEW, (Gardiner Expressway), opening Niagara off the highway Oct. 29, 2016, opened late last Thursday night. They are the first roundabouts in St. Catharines, with the exception of those on Brock University's property.

Trump met with Buffalo area officials on April 11, 1997 in an attempt to gain support for his Ontario casino idea. Associated Press reported that Ontario officials told potential developers that their bids would have a better shot of being chosen if they had some kind of regional plan which included economic development on the U.S. side of the border.

"I feel a joint effort would be positive," Trump said. "I think it would be good for both of us," Trump said after meeting with Buffalo's mayor and an Erie County executive.

Trump's hope, the article said, was to convince American politicians to endorse his plan to Ontario gaming officials.

Ultimately, the province announced in February 1998 that the casino contract was being awarded to Falls Management Co., led by hotel giant Hyatt Development Corporation of Chicago.

The chair of the section committee said they received four excellent proposals and that each "rose to the top."

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The largest gaming facility in Canada opened in June 2014 with 2.5 million square feet in total. It is, many people are saying, HUGE.

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Nominations are open until November 30, and nomination forms are available from this newspaper, and the Ontario Community Newspapers Association at www.ocna.org or 416-923-7724 ext. 4439.

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Roundabouts with ease

SEARCH ENGINE from Page 24

FACT FINDER

Q: I love the roundabouts that are being installed around Niagara. However, I was told by a European friend that drivers should be using their right turn signal when exiting a roundabout (no one here does this). It seems like this would reduce confusion, reduce collisions and improve the flow of traffic at roundabouts. Is there a law in Ontario requiring drivers to signal right when exiting a roundabout? Can a driver be fined for failing to do so? If not, why?

A: Signals are your friend, even in a roundabout.

Ministry of Transportation spokeswoman Astrid Poel said all rules of the road under the Highway Traffic Act apply in roundabouts.

That means drivers can be charged for speeding, failing to yield, following too closely and yes, failing to signal.

Exiting from a roundabout constitutes a right turn and a signal is required, just as it is at a traditional type of intersection so

other drivers know what you're intending to do.

Drivers can learn more about how to safely drive through a roundabout, including turning, exiting and dealing with other situations, in the MTO's official driver's handbook. They can also find information by going to the ministry's website at www.mto.gov.on.ca and searching "roundabouts".

Send your queries to Karen Walter by email at kwalter@postmedia.com; by Twitter @[karen_standard](https://twitter.com/karen_standard); or through Facebook at www.facebook.com/karenwalter.

Mall hoping for winter weather

ALLAN DENNER
Postmedia Network

Sunday's snowfall was a welcome sight for Seaway Mall president Mike Belcastro.

The shopping Centre kicked off its Christmas shopping season early with a Santa show and procession as Santa Claus's dream came true for Santa and Mrs. Claus and through the hallways.

But although Belcastro said the mall has slowly been getting busier with Christmas shoppers, "the problem is it's been so warm."

"No one's really in the mood right now, but with the possibility of snow (Christmas shopping) is going to be all the sudden start up," he said. "We think it's going to be a good season."

He said 2016 has been a "really good year" so far, and "I imagine November and December will be the same way."

He said the mall is working with several retailers interested in moving into some of the vacant spaces left by large retailers. Another retailer is planning a major renovation, just in time for the Christmas season.

Belcastro said announcements will be

No one's really in the mood right now, but with the possibility of snow (Christmas shopping) is going to be all the sudden start up."

Seaway Mall president Mike Belcastro made in early 2017 about a new tenant moving into the remaining portion of the old Sears store, and another tenant has laid claim to 1,000 square metres of the old Target store.

"It's something very unique," he said.

The community will have an opportunity to share breakfast with Santa Claus on Saturday at 9 a.m. in the food court to raise funds for United Way of South Niagara. Tickets are on sale at the Customer Service kiosk for \$6 each.

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Up to 18 more ambulances might be required by 2027

Continued from page 18

"Wherever the call load is, the ambulances can flow to," Hamblides said, adding staff hours

available in communities with less demand can also help to defray the cost.

But he stressed that moving

resources is only a Band-Aid fix to a statewide issue of increasing call volumes that needs to be addressed as it will only continue going forward.

Ambulance responses are expected to double over the next 10 years to more than 100,000 from an estimated 57,000 in 2016.

Niagara has a fleet of 34 ambulances available to tackle existing demand.

"Add another 57,000 to that and know what ambulance and staff requirements will be 10 years," Hamblides said.

While all factors contributing to the increasing volume are not yet known, it's believed Niagara's aging population plays a significant role.

The existing volume is already creating challenges in the system, with response targets not being met "in a number of places," Hamblides said.

Pomax, hired by the Region at a cost of \$65,357, recommends Niagara EMS transition to a research model over a three-year period, during which growth will still continue and additional resources will be required.

"The real key to it is first you have to start with the research and see what you can do to change the curve," Hamblides said. "If you don't do that, your other choice is just to come up with additional resources, letting those response times slip and saying 'We're going to do our best.'

"In that case you'll see what is seen in other places, a person with a fractured leg or sprained ankle waiting in a park for an hour or two hours [for] transportation."

Before Niagara can consider implementing any of the tools being utilized in Calgary, local research must first be conducted, Hamblides said.

The consulting firm recommended Niagara look to Calgary's EMS system, which Pomax also had a hand in implementing, for inspiration. That system has been able to increase its response times and response volume over the past three years, due in part to alternative transfer options available and over-the-phone triage to determine injury or illness of a less serious nature.

However, there are factors impacting the Calgary system at a rate significantly different than Niagara.

For instance, Niagara's population of residents aged 65 and older, which typically utilize more ambulatory services, is double Calgary's at 18.7 per cent compared to 9.2 per cent.

The Calgary system is run by Alberta Health Services, which allows for 911 dispatchers to direct callers to partnering clinics if they are dealing with a non-emergency situation.

The Calgary system also charges substantially more for ambulatory services — \$250 minimum if an ambulance is called but no hospital transport is ultimately required and \$385 minimum if the trip is necessary.

It discourages people from calling an ambulance for injuries or ailments of a less serious nature, Hamblides said. Non-emergency cases are instead directed to an alternative transport system.

Ontario's ambulance fee is legislated at \$45.

Before Niagara can consider implementing any of the tools being utilized in Calgary, local research must first be conducted, Hamblides said.

A look into what occurs when phone calls for help come in and what happens once patients are transported to hospital may provide vital information, he said. By studying whether patients were transported to an emergency, treated and released, or admitted to hospital, patterns can emerge that may show "which patients you can respond to quickly and which patients you can move to a different methodology."

The intention is to find a cost-effective method of using available resources.

This will likely mean an expansion of the community paramedicine program underway in Waterloo, in addition to other changes, Hamblides said. That program sees an advanced-care paramedic responding to medical calls and completing at-home health assessments in the rural community.

But before alternatives to ambulance services are recommended, "you have to know which patients you're suggesting that to," he said. Research must be done to determine the terminology patients use when calling in, their chain of questions and information patterns that may lead to a referral of that nature.

"You can't do any of that without the research. ('This' too much?" he asked.)

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn feels Niagara should be looking for research conducted and best practices implemented elsewhere instead of diving into its own studies unnecessarily.

"I think there's somebody out there that has done this research that we can capitalize on and move quickly on ... I'd like to see us ready, aim, fire approach," he said, with more pilot projects instead introduced at a faster pace.

"We can study this thing to death. It will cost us millions of dollars and at the end of the day, will it be any better than trying pilot projects?"

Dr. Valeria Jaeger, Niagara's medical officer of health, said the health unit and its partners are experimenting with various EMS methods; the information local research would yield is not available elsewhere.

"We know at some point there has to be an expansion of (the Wainfleet project), but that has to be based on sound data and more data than we have currently," she said.

Hamblides added that the recommended research extends beyond that existing pilot and would yield information that would potentially change other aspects of the EMS system as well.

A big component of that research model is public education, Hamblides said, with residents informed about when calling an ambulance is necessary.

Research can also be used to identify frequent users of the EMS system. Community paramedics can then work with those individuals to find proper methods to address their health concerns, he said.

"Once you start doing that across the region, it might have a positive effect."

While the recommended model could mean the hiring of up to 10 people for research, logistics and education, those costs will be recovered if call volumes can be stabilized, preventing the need to hire additional EMS staff and purchase additional ambulances, Hamblides said.

Despite the consultant recommendation for two new vehicles to be purchased in 2017, EMS is requesting only one for the new year. The vehicle was initially requested in 2014, along with three others that have since been granted.

The cost on the tax levy for one ambulance in 2017 is \$453,000, with an additional \$453,000 coming from reserves that would be recouped from the province.

The master plan was referred back to staff to analyze the document.

A management response is expected to come forward to council in early 2017.

The consultant's immediate findings, including the recommendation for the hiring of a research team, was referred to the budget committee for 2017 deliberations, which are underway.

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New surveillance system keeps watch at safety village

LAURA BARTON
Postmedia Network

Niagara Safety Village is increasing its security in an effort to prevent a repeat of damage vandals caused earlier this year.

Thanks to a \$3,350 donation from CAA Niagara, the Welland-based was able to purchase six security cameras to keep an eye on things when no one is around.

"This is really important to us," said Shirley Cordiner, the learning centre's executive director.

"We can't have our miniature village destroyed again. It just can't happen."

The new, motion-sensitive surveillance system will send an alert to Cordiner's cellphone if someone is on the premises after hours. It will help protect the buildings, vehicles and exhibits in the village, as well as the students the village uses to educate about 7,000 students annually from across the region.

Cordiner said as a non-profit centre, getting this kind of donation is a "big deal." Relying only on donations, grants and fundraising, there isn't extra money left over to make purchases such as this.

Drew Chamberlain, presi-



Laura Barton/Postmedia Network

Niagara Safety Village executive director Shirley Cordiner and CAA Niagara president and CEO Drew Chamberlain work together to bring a surveillance system to the learning centre to help protect it from vandalism.

dent and chief executive officer of CAA Niagara, said when the agency heard about the vandalism to the safety village in January, it called Cordiner to see how it could help.

"CAA is very much involved in road safety and this aligns very well with what our advo-

cacy is," he said. "It starts at this age."

Chamberlain said his own children have been through the village, so it truly does impact everyone when this kind of damage is done.

Knowing the non-profit wouldn't have funds for this

kind of equipment, CAA decided to make a monetary donation. Chamberlain said it was Cordiner who decided what surveillance cameras would be appropriate and meet their needs.

"We were glad to help out that way and make sure this

doesn't happen again," Chamberlain said.

Vandals in January caused about \$25,000 damage, which was devastating, Cordiner said.

The small buildings and vehicles were targeted, although the main building

was left alone.

Niagara Regional Police Cst. Robin Bleich, who teaches several classes at the safety village, said the crime had a big impact on the community and could be seen on the landscape.

"Not only did the vandalism obstruct the infrastructure, it limited our teaching ability in a police classroom," she said.

For instance, a school bus and ambulance that were damaged are key tools in her program.

She called CAA's gesture heartwarming and said she was appreciative as an officer, instructor and as a parent as well.

"Crime prevention, like any effective crime-reduction strategy, requires strong partnerships, whether that's through the public sector or the private sector," Bleich said.

Cordiner said if the vandals are caught, they will get community service hours, she wants them to do some time at the safety village so they can see all it does and to understand the negative impact their actions had.

In the meantime, she's confident the new security cameras will deter any further damage to the village.

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25	26	27	28	29	30	1

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Mon-Fri 7am-8pm • Sat 7am-7pm • Sun 8am-6pm